

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Yates et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,338,186 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 2, 2019**

(54) **POSITIONAL TRACKING SYSTEMS AND METHODS**

(71) Applicant: **VALVE CORPORATION**, Bellevue, WA (US)  
(72) Inventors: **Alan Yates**, Bellevue, WA (US);  
**Jeremy Selan**, Bellevue, WA (US)  
(73) Assignee: **Valve Corporation**, Bellevue, WA (US)  
(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 538 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/937,844**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 10, 2015**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**  
US 2016/0131761 A1 May 12, 2016

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 62/126,358, filed on Feb. 27, 2015, provisional application No. 62/077,374, filed on Nov. 10, 2014.  
(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G01S 1/70** (2006.01)  
**G01S 7/481** (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **G01S 1/70** (2013.01); **G01S 7/481** (2013.01)  
(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... G01S 1/50; G01S 1/52; G01S 1/70; G01S 7/4815; G01S 7/4817; G01S 7/484; G01S 7/5209

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

3,698,816 A \* 10/1972 Lutchansky ..... G01S 1/70 342/398  
4,667,091 A \* 5/1987 Gerlach ..... G01S 17/66 250/203.1  
4,818,107 A † 4/1989 Ono  
5,294,970 A \* 3/1994 Dornbusch ..... G01C 15/002 356/141.1

(Continued)

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

JP 2002328012 11/2002

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Supplementary (Extended) European Search Report for Application No. EP 15 85 9458-1206 / 3218736 PCT/US2015060045, completion of the search Jun. 21, 2018, received on Jul. 3, 2018.

(Continued)

*Primary Examiner* — Eric L Bolda

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Lee & Hayes, P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Optical positional tracking systems that may be used in virtual reality (VR)/augmented reality (AR) applications are described. Exemplary implementations comprise one or more receivers and one or more transmitters. Exemplary transmitters contains two orthogonal rotors that each emit a fan-shaped laser beam. Each beam is swept as the rotors are spun at constant speed. Exemplary optical receivers can be relatively small, and mounted at convenient locations on the VR display. These receivers consist of small optical detectors that may be mounted on head-mounted VR displays. Exemplary systems determine position by measuring the time at which each swept beam crosses each receiver/detector.

**65 Claims, 33 Drawing Sheets**

